Flu vaccination clinic

shoots for Oct. 12-13 The San Juan County Public Health Service office has scheduled fall flu vaccination clinics.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 11 and 12, clinics will be held at the health service office at the old Miners Union Hospital at 1315 Snowden St., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A clinic is also planned for Thursday, Oct. 13 for the Senior Citizens dinner at the Brown Bear Cafe.

Cost for the vaccination is \$20 (or make sure to bring your Medicare card).

If you need or would like a house call, please call 387-

Food bank seeks help

Silverton's food bank annual fundraiser is under way. The food bank is a project totally funded by donations and operated by volunteers. It was started 11 years ago by Andy Gleason and Rose Raab doing the books (which she still does

The food bank has a total open-door policy and everyone is welcome.

"Last winter we served lots

to needy people, and we are trying to go into the winter with extra funds to purchase more food," said volunteer Patti Dailey. "Any donation would be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

Checks can be made out to St. Patrick's Church, P.O. Box 331, Silverton, CO 81433.

Funding available to help you stay warm

Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) has awarded San Juan County with a \$10,000 grant. This grant is to help cover costs of coal, electric, firewood, natural gas, oil, propane, and solid

You must meet the eligibility criteria to be considered for this program, which includes applying for LEAP first. Anyone interested in this program can come by the Social Services office or call Deanna Jaramillo at 387-5631 to get an application.

"We have approximately \$4,000 left to spend by the end of October 2011," Jaramillo

All aboard for Local Appreciation train on Sunday, Oct. 29

The last regularly scheduled passenger train to Silverton is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 29 but the annual special Silverton Local Appreciation Train will run on Sunday, Oct. 30.

The train will depart Silverton at 8:30 a.m. and

See BRIEFS, Page 4

Sunnyside offers \$6.5 million

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established 1875

In an Oct. 4 letter to the

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Up to 845 gallons per minute of acid mine drainage pours into Cement Creek from those abandoned mines above Gladstone.

See SUNNYSIDE, Page 8

established 1889

SOUTHBOUND TRAIN



Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Mi A Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad passenger train leaves Silverton on a cold and wet afternoon Tuesday, Oct. 4.

Some BLM land could go private

Conceptual plan involves 175 acres going back on the county's tax rolls

By Mark Esper

More than 400 acres of mining claims were removed from San Juan County's property tax rolls in 2009 as the Bureau of Land Management took owner-ship of Standard Metals claims above Animas Forks.

Another 225 acres of mining claims were acquired last year by the BLM in the Gladstone area and the BLM is poised to take control of several ASARCO mining claims in the Silver Lake area

Those deals have cost the county several thousands of dollars a year in lost property tax revenue.

But now county and BLM officials are working on a plan to put some land back on the tax rolls.

County Commissioner Pete McKay and Lisa Richardson, alpine ranger for the BLM, last week unveiled conceptual plans for a "Land Rationalization" project and County Land Bank that could put 175 acres of BLM land back in private hands.

The land would be along

County Road 110 and near the Eureka townsite.

The land lies in what the county identified as its development corridors in the master plan adopted last year

"The master plan shaped our search for these parcels,"
Richardson told the county commissioners. "We have three areas identified as a starting point -175 acres that maybe could become private." That includes 25 acres adia-

cent to the Eureka Lodge property, 50 acres along County Road 110 adjacent to Silverton Mountain Ski Area, and 95 acres



Silverton Standard established 1889

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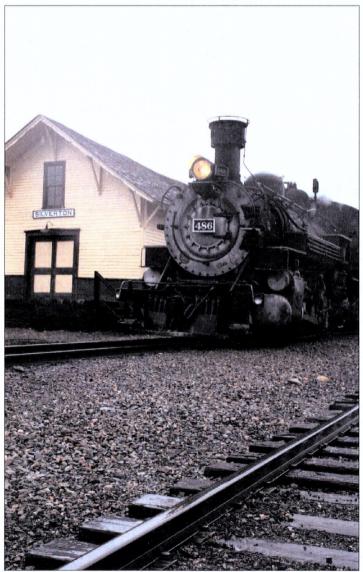
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Subscriptions are \$24 per year for Silverton residents; \$48 per year for all other deliveries by U.S. mail. Digital e-mail delivery is available at \$26 per year.

Our goals

The Silverton Standard & the Miner is a weekly newspaper written for people interested in the issues and news of

Silverton, Colo., and the surrounding San Juan Mountains region. The Standard voices a strong sense of community for Silverton and the San Juans as it brings you the issues, characters, landscapes, and the talent of the region. Stressing indepth, balanced, and thoughtful writing, news, photography, and topical articles on key issues affecting the region, the Standard keeps the greater San Juan community informed, entertained, provoked, and engaged in dialogue about the community and its future.



2011 Member

Colorado Press Association winner: Best news content for a small weekly,

2007; ☐ Best photos and design, 2008.

2010 CPA awards:

- est Business Story
- Best Education Story
- Best Headline Writing
- Best News Page DesignBest Editorial Layout &

- Design

 Best Photo Essay

 Best Special Section

 Best Newspaper Promotion

The Masonic to the Lackawanna

Silverton has unused buildings which could be put back into service, having both a historic reference and future value The two most mentioned these days, the Masonic Lodge and the Lackawanna Mill, are very good examples.
One could think of the

Masonic ideal of the dissemination of accurate knowledge being a core principle for a free society when contemplating their building. The nowimproved newspaper could be settled in the back of the first

GUEST OPINION

One could think of the Masonic ideal of the dissemination of accurate knowledge being a core principle for a free society when contemplating their building.

floor of the Lodge with both the contemporary mechanisms of printing alongside a printing press from the 1880s, churning out antique-style materials for organizations, companies and the like for a nice price. The Masons were never adverse to being entrepreneurs, as well as free thinkers

Some younger people in town advanced the idea of a software engineering studio in the same setting where people could "rent" time on fully competent computers for everything from engineering projects to web designs for local businesses to creative pursuits. By competent I mean installed software

like simple and expert CAD and 3ds Max engines which individuals do not own personally. The more I thought of this idea, the more I liked it. This could well draw clients from outside the area and, in time, might become a server in itself so people could use it from their home computers for a fee

Since all the equipment would be available, individual printing, copying and faxing needs could be offered for additional revenue from those of us who do not have such equipment in our homes

See CROW, Page 5



Sunnyside's letter to BLM, ARSG

Editor's note: the Following is the text of a letter from Sunnyside Gold Corp. president Lauren Roberts to BLM officials and Animas River Stakeholders Group

The Silverton area has a long

and distinguished history of both mining and successful col-laborative efforts to address environmental matters. Sunnyside Gold Corp. has been a part of that history, and has a continuing interest in water quality and

habitats in the area

Faced with new and unanticipated water quality challenges in the Animas River, the community is once again demonstrating its capacity for pursuing cooper-

See LETTER, Page 4

In store for dramatic change

By Freddie Canfield

September is over. Do we simply turn our calendars over to October or does Mother Nature have something more dramatic and intense in

Time will tell. We shall see!

September began with diurnally warm and nocturnally moderate temperatures. Cloudiness along with dampness kept leaves green later than most years. Temperatures dropped by the day but remained well above freezing for a week of rainy weather. Then we had 11 mostly clear days with nights in the 20s. Leaves suddenly woke up to a

spectacularly colorful fall after a drowsy beginning. This weather week began with those last two days of the month that was. September ended very wet. October began clear and dry for another spec-tacular weekend, followed by another spell of rain Monday. Tuesday was 40 degrees before 6 a.m. When I woke up it was raining then and continued to do so for most of the day that followed.

Your correspondent soaked through a succession of layers that were purported to be "water proof"! Temperatures stayed around 40 all day and the

night that followed. So, what happens next? One of my friends

WEATHER AND OBSERVATIONS

Date	High	Low	Precip., conditions	
Sept. 28	70	28	Clear	
Sept. 29	69	29	.37", virtually clear	
Sept. 30	67	27	.14", clear	
Oct. 1	68	27	Virtually clear	
Oct. 2	65	29	Virtually clear	
Oct. 3	64	29	.15", foggy, overcast	
Oct. 4	46	36	.68", foggy, overcast	

claims we will have a half inch of snow this week. My meteorological friends in Grand Junction are talking about a foot or more, along with tempera-tures in the low 20s Thursday afternoon. You be the judge of the veracity of these predictions.

You will have the real experience by the time you read this column.

My hiking pard, Edith Mary Eggett, and I shared reminiscences along with jaw-dropping autumnal beauty Saturday morning. We went up to Dolores LaChappelle Park at a slow lilly-dog pace

'You can reclaim your true nature anytime by ring deeply and fully in your own space

How her words are with us. May they be with you, too.

GUEST OPINION

Pack mule limitations

By David Swanson

I recently helped a good friend by shouldering some supplies up to a mine/boarding house site he and another buddy of mine were doing the finishing carpentry work on.

Being the naïve, individual that I am (somewhat brain-dead too in the eyes of certain people), I agreed to do this out of a bizarre sense of duty, and a desperate need to put more cash in my bank account. The money thing having to do with a perverse habit of mine whereby I tell the girls at the bank that there's a law on the books forbidding me to carry actual dollars in my wallet.

The experience turned out to be a good one with the possible exception of the actual transport of supplies up to the boarding house. It was one of those glorious type days with a pleasant, but not too chilly breeze whiffing through the aspens, and an unreal cobalt blue sky.

The drive up to Animas Forks almost didn't feel like we were in the real world either. The fall colors were intensely beautiful, and the commentator on the radio was blathering on about a slight, but actual miniscule drop in the unemployment rate last month. All was right with the world at that exact moment, and I kept wondering to myself why could-n't things always be this way?

Then we got to the spot where we parked the truck and prepared to hike up to the work site. My buddies lifted the doors they had to carry up to, and then hang at the boarding house. Meanwhile, I grabbed the bucket of tools they'd need to do the job.

As we started walking up the road, the bucket felt a bit heavy, but it was too nice a day to let

See SWANSON, Page 6

Write to us

The Silverton Standard & the Miner welcomes letters to the editor. Send letters via email to editor@ silvertonstandard.com, or via snail mail to, Editor, Silverton Standard & the Miner, P.O. Box 8, Silverton,

FOR THE RECORD

San Juan County Sheriff's Office blotter

Sept. 26 — Six citizens were assisted. A one-vehicle rollover accident was investigated on County Road 70.

Sept. 27 — Jose M. Orestes, of Miami, Fla., was issued a citation for speeding; 46 in a 30-mph zone. Two warnings were issued for speeding. A rockslide was reported to CDOT. A motorist was assisted.

Sept. 28 — Darrel W. Huber, Silverton, was issued a summons for driving under restraint, open alcoholic beverage in motor vehicle, possession of marijuana and displayed expired number plates. A warning was issued for impeding traffic. A motorist was assisted. A parking warning was issued. A warning was issued for speed-

ing. **Sept. 29** — Kimberly A. Garrett, of Lewisville, Texas, was issued a summons for speeding; 55 in a 30-mph zone, and driving

when license was suspended. A theft was reported. A warning was issued for speeding. A warning was issued for failure to stop at a stop sign. Checked on two different suspicious incidents; all

Sept. 30 — A parking warning was issued. A citizen was assisted. Two warnings were issued for speeding. A possible drunken driver was reported the subject was stopped and was not intoxi-

Oct. 1 - A set of lost keys was reported. Two parking warnings were issued. Two motorists were assisted. A warning was issued for open container. A warning was issued for excessive noise in Memorial Park.

Oct. 2 - Jason R. Wolley, of Houston, was issued a citation for speeding; 47 in a 30-mph zone. A parking warning was issued. Three citizens were assisted. Two warnings were issued for speeding. $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}$ motorist

Highway project starts Monday on Red Mtn.

The Colorado Department of Transportation will begin a project to reduce rockfall on U.S. 550 on Red Mountain Pass south of Ouray, between the Bear Creek Tunnel and the snow shed (mile marker 91), on Monday, Oct. 10.

The two-season project will be suspended for winter by Nov. 15, and will resume around May 1, 2012. The project will be completed by June 15, 2012.

The safety improvement project, contracted to Midwest Rockfall Inc., of Denver for \$845,880, involves rockfall reduction measures between mile posts 88 and 91. The mitigation will

- Minor rock scaling rocks will be brought down with prybars or inflatable bags;
- Rock stabilization crews will drill 1 3/8-inch-diameter holes (approximately 20 feet apart) down to fracture points, then fill holes with a Poly-Urethane Resin, which acts as a kind of glue;
- Rock bolting crews will drill and insert 10-foot-long steel dowels and 25-foot long steel

rock bolts into various locations to provide further stabilization;

 Rockfall netting — several types of rockfall wire mesh/netting will be anchored from above to guide smaller rocks into ditch

"Our rockfall program statewide receives an average of only \$3 million each year for mitigation projects; these are planned and scheduled using a rockfall rating system," CDOT Resident Engineer Ed Archuleta said. "This location will offer a challenging project.

Throughout the duration of the project motorists will encounter single-lane, alternating traffic between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the northbound lane Monday through Friday. There will be no weekend work Motorists will also encounter full traffic holds of up to 20

minutes during work hours. While these traffic holds will be limited to 20 minutes or less, motorists' actual delays may exceed 20 minutes, as the traffic queues are cleared in each direction. Delay times will vary.

MOUNTAIN HAPPENINGS

Monday, Oct. 10 Silverton Town Council,

7:30 p.m., Town Hall.

Tuesday, Oct. 11 Silverton school board, 5

p.m., high school room. • Silverton Municipal Code revision workshop, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Town Hall.

Wednesday, Oct. 12 San Juan County Board of Commissioners, 8:30 a.m., county courthouse

Monday, Oct. 24 Silverton Town Council, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall.

Wednesday, Oct. 26 San Juan County Board of Commissioners, 6:30 p.m., county courthouse.

Saturday, Oct. 29 Last train to Silverton for

Sunday, Oct. 30 Local Appreciation train ride — round trip Silverton to Durango and back.

Tuesday, Nov. 1 Election Day.

Ongoing

• San Juan County Historical Society Archive ---Regular hours on Tuesdays and

- Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon.

 Blair Street First Friday Shop Walk. Every first Friday of the month July through October, shops open 5-8 p.m..
- Silverton Movement Center: Mondays — Pilates, 8:15 a.m.; Spin/circuit combo, 5:15 p.m.; Tuesdays — Hatha Yoga with Chris, 8:15 a.m.: belly dance II, 5:30 p.m., belly dance I, 7 p.m.; Wednesdays — Circuit workout, 8:15 a.m.; weight training, all levels, 5:15 p.m.;

8:15 a.m.; Hatha yoga with Chris, 5:30 p.m.; Fridays Kettlebell, etc., workout, 8:15 a.m.

- Blair Street Historic District Association, 9 a.m., on the first Wednesday of each month at the Villa DallaValle.
 • Alcoholics Anonymous
- meeting in Silverton. For meet ing times, questions or help, call (888) 333-9649.
- American Legion meet ings, 7 p.m. first Thursday of the month, Legion Post.
- Silverton Threads meetings at Kendal Mountain Center have been suspended until next spring. The group will meet weekly at member's homes during the winter months, starting on the second Wednesday of November at 10 a.m. Please call 387-5356 for locations. The group welcomes anyone with an interest in any of the fiber arts: knitting, sewing, crocheting, embroidery and of course quilting. If you want to come and just visit that is fine too. There are no dues and no membership requirements.

Silverton Youth Center activities

Silverton Youth Center is open from 4-9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and 4-10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Closed Sundays.

Mondays — Mad Scientist, 45 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays —
Hang Out Time; Thursdays elementary movie, 6 p.m.; Fridays — middle school, high school movie, 7 p.m.

Spiritual events Church of Christ, Sundays: a.m.; and Sunday evening Bible discussion, 5 p.m., (303) 257-3092.

- St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Father Nat Foshage, Mass at 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Wednesdays, 1005 Reese St., 325-4373
- · Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, President Duane Eggett, Sunday services: 9 a.m. priesthood, 10 a.m.; sacrament, 11 a.m. Sunday school, 727 Greene St., 387-5338
- First Congregational Church of Silverton, the Rev. Cynthia H. Chertos, Sunday service 9 a.m. Discussions for the spiritual journey, 7 p.m. most Monday evenings at the parsonage. All are welcome. Email, chchertos@aol.com. Web site: www.silvertonchurch.org.
- Church on the Hill, Pastor Mark Lawson, Sunday services 9 a.m. Bible study; 10:15 a.m. regular service, Thursday night prayer/fellowship 7 p.m.; Spanish language service, 6 p.m. Saturdays, 1105 Snowden St., 387-5215
- Word of Life Fellowship, Pastor Jim Greenfield, Sunda service starts at 10 a.m., 1706 Empire St. 387-5893.
- Community prayer break-fast, 7 a.m. Mondays, Kendall Mountain Cafe.

Send us your 'Happening'

Got somethin' goin' on? Contact the Silverton Standard. Phone 387-5477 or e-mail editor@ Silvertonstandard.com

BRIEFS, from Page 1

arrive at Durango for a 2-hour layover. It will depart Durango for

Silverton at 2:30 p.m. Tickets, at only \$20 each, are available for Silverton residents only until Oct. 14. Tickets for residents of Ouray, Telluride and Ridgway residents will be available after Oct. 14.

Tickets must be paid for at the time of booking and proof of residency is required. Tickets are nonrefundable.

Tickets are available at the Silverton and Durango depots. Or call 387-5416 or 247-2733.

A friendly notice to all San Juan County property owners ...

The San Juan County Treasurer would like to remind you that delinquent property taxes are due by 12 p.m., Oct. 14, to avoid advertising and the extra fees associated.

Any property taxes which are still delinquent as of 12:00pm on Nov. 14 will be sold at tax lien auction.

The tax lien sale will be held on Nov. 15 at 10 a.m. in the San Juan County District Courtroom, 1557 Greene Street.

San Juan County Treasurer's Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m., closed from noon-1 p.m.

Are you turning up the heat in your home as the temperature drops?

The Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency (4CORE) is teaming up with San Juan County and ZE Supply to celebrate National Weatherization Day with a weatherization demonstration on the San Juan County Courthouse in Silverton, Join us for this free event on October 21st, starting at 12:30 PM and find answers about making your home cozy this winter. Refreshments provided by ZE Supply. Call 4CORE at 259-1916 or go to www.fourcore.org for more information

Thank You Silverton!

I wish to extend my deepest appreciation to everyone who organized, participated in and attended the 1st annual Shut Your Pie Hole contest. The deserts were magnificent the turn out was absolutely amazing and the money donated was unbelievable. People ask why I don't move to a lower elevation instead of struggling here this community is why; for all our differences no matter what when the chips are down this community shows its best side every time it never ceases to amaze me. Thank you one and all! Linda A special thanks to Margaret-Storyteller Indian Jewelry, Diane-Funnel Cakes, Rudy & Bob-Teller House Restaurant and

Maxine, Tracy, Rebecca

LETTER, from Page 2 ative solutions to complex prob-

It is my understanding that, at the August meeting of the Animas River Stakeholders Group, a Bureau of Land Management representative dis-cussed BLM's interest in potentially constructing a water treatment plant on federal lands to treat waters coming from the American Tunnel. It was noted, however, that BLM would not be in a position to allocate monies to operate such a facility.

At the September Animas River Stakeholders Group meeting, the stakeholders discussed joint efforts to evaluate water management alternatives to determine the best technical and cost-effective approach to reduce metals loading to Cement Creek, with the goal of improving water quality in the Animas River.

Sunnyside is offering to contribute up to \$6.5 Million towards projects to improve water quality in the Animas River that Sunnyside may approve after consultation with the Animas River Stakeholders Group. Of this total amount.

Sunnyside is presently committing to contribute:

 Twenty-five thousand dol-lars towards the ongoing effort being undertaken by the Animas River Stakeholders Group to evaluate water management alternatives: and

2) up to \$5 million toward the operation of a cost-effective water treatment plant to treat water from the American Tunnel should the BLM build and operate such a facility.

Sunnyside's record of commitment to water quality is demonstrated by its having spent almost \$15 million on mitigation, remediation and reclamation in the area and having been released from liabilities pursuant to a voluntary Consent Decree with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Nothing in this letter is intended to or shall be deemed to constitute any admission of liability.

Sunnyside does not view that a Superfund listing would be constructive and would vigorously contest any alleged liability under Superfund.

Sunnyside is pleased to continue to be a partner in the ongoing collaborative efforts to improve water quality and habitats in the Animas River. We are hopeful that our actions today will serve as an impetus for others to expand their commitments to contributing to jointly addressing water quality in the Animas.

Sunnyside Gold Corporation Lauren M. Roberts, president SUNNYSIDE, from Page 1

Sunnyside, as a former mine operator in the area, has been identified by the EPA as one of several "potentially responsible parties" that could be held liable for cleaning up the problem if the sites were placed on the National Priorities List.

At an Aug. 18 meeting at Silverton Town Hall, BLM hydrol-

Once in a lifetime

DREAM oppty to

custom build your

ogist Kay Zillich noted the BLM now actually owns the American Tunnel portal and that the agency might be able to come up with funding for a treatment plant — but not for actual operational costs of such a facility.

A 2006 report prepared for the EPA estimated the cost of constructing a treatment plant at between \$3.5 million and \$4.8

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"We are hopeful our actions will serve as an impetus for others to expand their commitments to jointly addressing water quality in the Animas." Lauren Roberts,

president, Sunnyside Gold Corp.

million, with operating costs ranging from \$364,000 to

\$437,000 per year. Roberts said Sunnyside has spent almost \$15 million on mitigation, remediation and reclamation in the area and the company "pleased to continue to be a partner in the ongoing collabora-tive efforts to improve water quality and habitats in the Animas River.

"We are hopeful our actions will serve as an impetus for othworkings. The disastrous Lake Emma flood in 1978 forced the closure the mine. A treatment plant was commissioned for water discharges from the tunnel in the fall of 1978 and that plant was redesigned and upgraded in the late 1980s.

In 1996 a bulkhead was installed at the American Tunnel portal. But discharges soon began to increase from other mine portals above the tunnel.

The treatment plant at fight. Since then water quality in Cement Creek has been worsenis enough "community support" for the upper Cement Creek sites to be placed on the National Priorities List. Such support is considered vital for the governor to provide the necessary endorsement under the 1980 Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, the official name of the so-

called Superfund legislation. EPA officials have said they hope to determine by Dec. 20 if there is enough local support to proceed with the listing, which could be made official by March

Larry Perino, reclamation manager for Sunnyside, said the company "strongly believes that Superfund is the wrong approach. We believe that a local solution involving local stakeholders is a much wiser approach for this community — and our offer is a step to keep that process on

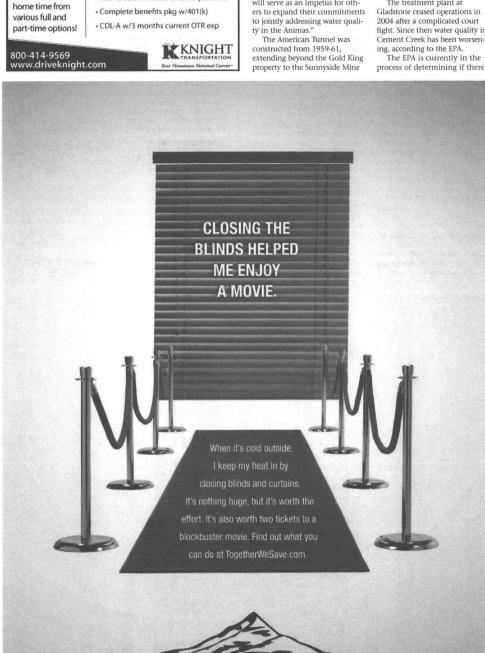
Todd Hennis of Golden, current owner of the Gold King Mine, said Sunnyside's offer "is a start. It should have been \$15

Sabrina Forrest, site assessment manager for the EPA, said the agency has no comment at this time. She said EPA officials have scheduled meetings with representatives of the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, the BLM and Kinross Gold Corp., Sunnyside Gold's parent company, on the matter.

Peter Butler of Durango, one of three coordinators of the Animas River Stakeholders Group, provided the following statement on behalf of the coordinating committee:

"Sunnyside Gold Corp.'s announcement of their commitment to developing a collaborative solution to water quality issues affecting the Animas River is welcome news. There remains a lot of work to be done in determining what practical solutions might look like, where and how they would be implemented, and how all the various stakeholders might participate.

"Sunnyside has worked diligently to address water quality issues in the past and this partici-patory and monetary commitment reflects their intention to be part of the solution in the



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